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## REPORT OF EXTERNAL MEETING ATTENDED BY SPRFMO OFFICERS

<b>Officer name</b>	Oswaldo Urrutia
<b>Position</b>	Chairperson of the SPRFMO Commission
<b>Meeting attended</b>	UNEP
<b>Date</b>	26-28 July 2018
<b>Location</b>	Bangkok

### 1. Information about the meeting

The name of the meeting was “Advancing environmental law together: Regional Meeting of UN Environment Montevideo Focal Points in Asia Pacific”. It was held at the UN Conference Centre, Room H, Bangkok, from 24 to 26 July 2018. I was invited in both my personal (knowledge of the issues being discussed at the meeting) and as SPRFMO Chairperson. The main motivation and context was the wish to invite experts from fields of practice that, although regulated by different legal frameworks, are related to environmental law or may have an impact or influence in its development.

On Wednesday 25, I led and participated in a round table conversation about the environmental impacts of fishing activities and how to prevent, minimise and regulate them.

### 2. Context of the meeting (as explained by UNEP)

Asia Pacific is the largest and fastest growing region in the world. Implementation of environmental commitments under Multilateral Environmental Agreements and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in this dynamic and diverse region requires good laws and strong institutions. The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) supports countries in Asia and the Pacific to achieve this goal. It works with a broad range of partners to support the development or strengthening of environmental laws and their enforcement to achieve countries’ environmental goals in the context of sustainable development, as well as advance environmental justice. The development and implementation of environmental law has been going through material changes in this region and globally, leading to the development of good practices in various countries that can address legal and institutional issues relating to the environment.

The Montevideo Programme for the Development and Periodic Review of Environment Law (Montevideo Programme) refers to a series of ten-year programmes that organize the work of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) to support the development and review of environmental law. The current and fourth such programme (Montevideo Programme IV) runs from 2010 to 2020. At its second universal session in 2016 the United Nations Environment Assembly adopted Resolution 2/19 which requests UN Environment, in close collaboration with the national focal points, to prepare an assessment of Montevideo IV and proposals for the work of UN Environment in the area of environmental law for a specific period beginning in 2020, for consideration by the UNEA in 2019.

### 3. Purpose of the Meeting

The key purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for Montevideo Focal Points from Asia Pacific to:

- (a) share and exchange information on latest developments, trends, and good practices in the development and enforcement of environmental law in their countries, as well as regionally and globally;

- (b) contribute to UN Environment's preparation of the assessment of the Montevideo Programme IV, including through sharing information on the status of implementation of the Montevideo Programme IV in their countries; and
- (c) identifying priorities from the region and proposals for the work of UN Environment in environmental law for the coming years, including for the next Montevideo Programme period commencing 2020. Priorities already identified by focal points and relevant UN Environment Assembly resolutions include: air pollution, public health and marine litter.

#### 4. Participants

The Asia Pacific region has Montevideo Focal Points for the following 21 Member States: Australia, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Iran, Japan, Maldives, Micronesia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Niue, Pakistan, Philippines, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Vietnam. Eighteen of these Member States were represented in the meeting. Environmental law experts and other stakeholders (e.g. UN agencies, NGOs etc.) were also invited to participate, including myself as the Chairperson of the SPRFMO Commission.

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Advancing Environmental Law Together  
Regional Meeting of UN Environment Montevideo Focal Points in Asia Pacific  
UN Conference Centre, Bangkok, 24-26 July 2018

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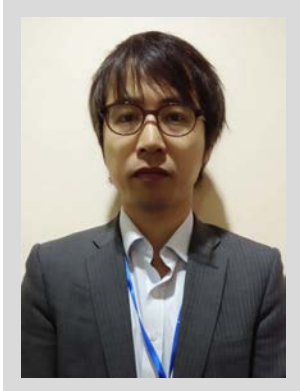
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**Regional Meeting of UN Environment Montevideo Focal Points in Asia Pacific**  
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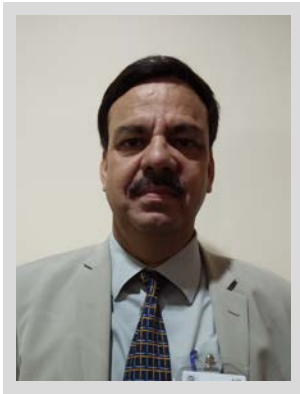
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**Advancing Environmental Law Together**  
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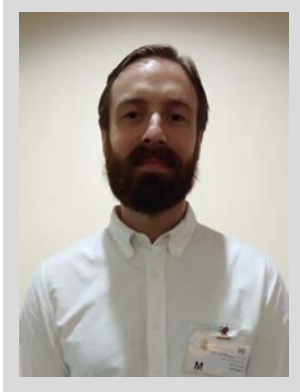
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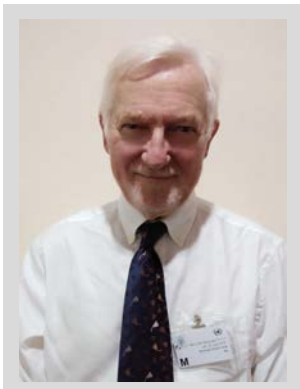
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**Advancing Environmental Law Together**  
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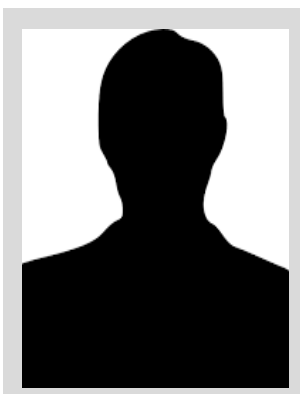
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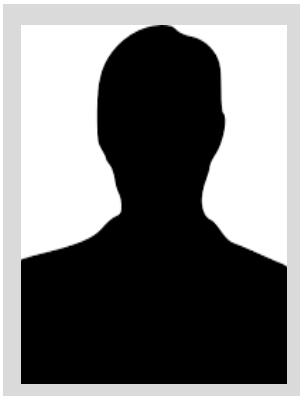
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